Ftur-laning of Cuttack Bhubaneswar section of National Highway No. 5

573. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in four-laning of the Cuttack-Bhubaneswar section of the National Highway No. 5;

(b) the year by which the four-laning work would be completed;

(c) the progress made so far in that regard; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the flour-laning work?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There has been some delay in starting the work due to the process of selecting contractors and supervision consultants for different packages of the projent in accordance with the requirements of the World Bank under whose loan assistance the project is being executed.

(b) The project is targetted to be completed by July, 1998.

(c) and (d) Order for commencement of the works to selected contractors and for appointment of supervision consultants for different packages have been issued in December, 1994/January, 1995 and the works in all the packages have since started. An amount of Rs. 20.78 crores has been released for payment of mobilisation advance to the contractors and supervision consultants so as to expedite the work.

Declaration of National Waterways

574. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have declared some waterways as National Waterways;

(b) if so, what are those National Waterways; and

(c) the details of plans drawn up for ferry and passenger services in those National Waterways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The inland waterways so far declared by the Government of India as National Waterways are:—

(i) The Ganga Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Adlahabad to Haldia (1620 kms.).

(ii) The Brahamputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 kms.); and

(iii) West Coast Canal from Kollam to Kottapuram (168 Kms.), alongwith Champakara Canal (14 kms.) and Udyogmandal Canal (23 Kms).

(c) Ferry and passenger services are State subject and hence no plan has been drawn up by the Government of India.

Development of Waterways

575. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it s a fact that the Indian Waterways are not maintained properly;

(b) if so, tht reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have felt the need of maintaining and the developing the waterways to meet the growing transport requirement of the country;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in that regard; and

(e) the details of the action plan drawn up, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The inland waterways so far declared by the Central Government as National Waterways are on the Ganga (Haldia-Allahabad), the Brahamputra (Bangladesh Border-Sadiya) and the West Coast Canal. These National Waterways are developed and maintained by the Government of India through Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) for shipping and navigation. Development of the other inland waterways in the responsibility of concerned State Governments. Several schemes to develop and maintain the National Waterways have been undertaken by the IWAI in order to make them adequately operational in a phased manner.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Inland Waterways Authority of India have schemes to adequately develop the existing National Waterways. It is plannned to declare a few more waterways as National Waterways during the 8th Five Year Plan.

(e) The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has prepared Policy/Strategy for the Development of Inland Waterways in the country, indicating the action plan for implementation on short-term and long-term basis. Under the short-term action plan, schemes will be undertaken to develop the National Waterways on the Ganga and the Brahamputra for 2 m. depth and to provide the navigable channel for atleast 300 days in a year. The West Coast Canal will also have a navigable depth of 2 m. as well as necessary infrastructural facilities like terminals, navigable aids, etc. It is also planned to declare a few more waterways as National Waterways. Under the long-term action plan, depth of the navigable channel will be increased and facilities such as terminals, night navigational aids, etc., will also be improved on the existing National Waterways.

Development of Highways

576. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has a total network of national highways of 34,058 kms. out of which only 4,000 kms. has been added during the last 14 years;

(b) if so, what progress has been made till date towards four laning of 15,000 kms. of national highways and construction of 10,000 kms. of express ways connecting all the major metros and particularly in Rajasthan;

(c) whether his Ministry has been projecting a potential of $25 billion of foreign investment for road development, if so, what is the present requirement and amount likely to be received during 1995-96 by way of foreign investment particularly from the Canadian Consultancy firm ND Lea International Ltd.; and

(d) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Hindustan Times dated 11-2-95 captioned "World Bank derails national roads policy" if so, what are the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The total network of National Highways as on date is 34,058 kms. About 5,000 kms road length was added to National Highway network since 1-4-1980.

(b) Four laning of about 400 kms. of National Highways has been taken up. Besides construction of 93 kms. length of Expressway has also been taken up.